

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: July 13, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on July 6, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Completion, John Hawe Property, Cedar Grove, Wisconsin

On June 25, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and its Emergency and Rapid Response Services removal contractor mobilized to complete the drum removal at the John Hawe Property in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. Over 30 55-gallon drums and soil contaminated with lead and dried paint resins were excavated and loaded into three 20-cubic yard roll off boxes. An X-Ray Diffraction unit (Niton) was utilized to field screen the soil for lead contamination and lead levels were brought to below 200 parts per million. The three roll-off boxes were shipped to a landfill for stabilization and disposal. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Faryan worked with the current property owners to facilitate the removal and prevent any damage to their property during the action. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) had referred the site to the U.S. EPA removal program when enforcement negotiations with the landfill operator to complete the cleanup were unsuccessful. The WDNR sampled the drinking water well of the current residence to assess whether any contaminants had migrated into the aquifer from the landfill or

from the spilled drums. All confirmation soil samples indicated that lead levels are below 25 milligrams per kilogram, which is well below the residential lead soil standards.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Cynthia Kawakami (312-886-0564)
Arlene Lilly (312-353-1907)

Emergency Response, Heritage Landing, Muskegon, Michigan

On June 25, 2001, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien responded, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Detachment Grand Haven, Michigan, to a release of unknown materials to Muskegon Lake from construction activities at Heritage Landing in Muskegon Michigan. Heritage Landing is part of a music festival grounds, owned by Muskegon County, which was developed over a former industrial property that included a foundry and metal scrap yard. Heritage Landing is being expanded to allow for docking of the "Tall Ships" and commercial Great Lakes lake craft. Muskegon County's construction contractors were installing sheet pilings which resulted in disturbance of contaminated soils and a sheen on the water adjacent to the landing. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) was called to the scene to oversee response activities. An environmental contractor for Muskegon County agreed to properly dispose of contaminated soil that was excavated during construction activities and to ensure that further releases are prevented.

Contact: Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)

Oil Removal Completion, Dillon Well Field, Ferdinand, Indiana

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Turner completed an Oil Pollution Act (OPA) funded oil plugging operation at the Dillon Oil Field Site in Ferdinand, Indiana. This operation came to U.S. EPA's attention through an emergency response where it was discovered that crude oil was discharging to a creek. Through several different investigative techniques, it was determined that the crude oil was moving through the subsurface and discharging to the closest surface water. This operation resulted in plugging of 16 oil wells in the immediate area of the discharge point. These oil wells averaged 275 to 350 feet deep and were plugged completely from the bottom to the top. The entire well field was

abandoned in the mid 1980s and was high on the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' orphan well list. The remaining unplugged oil wells (13) within this well field are less of a threat to a surface water and are to be plugged by the State of Indiana.

Contact: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)

Removal Action Completed, Old Fire Training Pit (Site 13) at U.S. Army-Jefferson Proving Ground, Madison, Indiana

On June 19, 2001, U.S. EPA submitted a concurrence letter regarding the Revised Position Paper for Site 13 (Old Fire Training Pit) at U.S. Army-Jefferson Proving Ground, Madison, Indiana. During July and September 2000, approximately 147.85 tons of soil were excavated from Site 13, stored in 11 roll-off boxes, and disposed of at an appropriate waste management facility in Louisville, Kentucky. Confirmation samples were collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals.

At the request of U.S. EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), additional confirmation sampling at Site 13 was completed in April 2001. The confirmation sampling report in the Revised Position Paper indicated that all cleanup goals have been fully achieved at Site 13 and no further action (NFA) is needed.

Contact: Karen Mason-Smith (312-886-6150)

Site Deletion (National Priorities List), Arcanum Iron & Metal Superfund Site, Twin Township, Ohio

On July 2, 2001, a notice of intent and a direct final notice of deletion from the National Priorities List (NPL) was published in the Federal Register for the Arcanum Iron & Metal Superfund site near the Village of Arcanum, Ohio.

The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on September 26, 1986. The remedy consisted of the excavation, treatment, and disposal of battery casing chips and cleaning up lead-contaminated soils to industrial/commercial cleanup levels. Lead-contaminated sediments in Sycamore Ditch were excavated, treated onsite, and disposed of in an off-site U.S. EPA approved landfill. The office, smelter, and saw buildings were decontaminated,

demolished, and hauled to a U.S. EPA approved landfill. All equipment, onsite drums (left by previous contractors), two flat-bed trailers, and a 500-gallon tank were disposed of along with the demolition debris. A ROD amendment was issued in June 1997 removing the groundwater remedy component from the ROD because later sample results showed that there was no risk. The Preliminary Close Out Report (PCOR) was issued in 1999. Since then two rounds of groundwater sampling have been completed, the groundwater monitoring wells have been properly abandoned, and two post excavation sampling events for Sycamore Ditch have confirmed that no contamination above cleanup levels has been left on or off the site. A Final Close-out Report was issued in March 2001.

Contacts: Kenneth Glatz (312-886-1434)
Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

Construction Completion, H.O.D. Landfill Superfund Site, Antioch, Illinois

On June 29, 2001, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the Preliminary Close-Out Report (PCOR) for the H.O.D. Landfill Superfund Site in Antioch, Illinois. Issuance of this report signifies remedial action construction completion for the site.

The remedy in the 1998 Record of Decision calls for excavation and consolidation onsite of off-site contaminated soil; waste cap improvements; leachate and gas collection system upgrades; leachate disposal to a publicly owned treatment works; long-term monitoring of leachate, landfill gas, groundwater, and surface water; monitored natural attenuation; institutional controls, deed restrictions, and access restrictions; and other operation and maintenance requirements, such as inspections and repairs. The prefinal inspection on May 31, 2001, and prefinal inspection follow-up on June 27, 2001, verified that the major construction items were completed by the potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

The Site is a candidate for redevelopment, and U.S. EPA has been meeting with the PRPs, including Waste Management and the Village of Antioch, to discuss redevelopment options.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

Consent Decree Referred, Refuse Hideaway Landfill Superfund Site, Middleton, Wisconsin

On June 21, 2001, the Superfund Division Director approved and forwarded to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) the Consent Decree (CD) package for the ongoing cleanup at the Refuse Hideaway Landfill Superfund site in Middleton, Wisconsin. The CD, which assigns responsibility for the cleanup to the State, will be lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. The Refuse Hideaway Landfill site, located off of U.S. Route 14, approximately 2 miles west of the City of Middleton, was a residential and commercial landfill from 1974 to 1988. Leachate from the landfill drained through soil at the site, resulting in extensive groundwater contamination which affected several private wells near the site. Under the CD, the State must continue to operate and maintain the cleanup systems in place at the landfill (installed by the State in late 1989), and monitor ground-water at and around the site until contaminants decrease to concentrations at or below U.S. EPA's cleanup standards. In addition to resources provided by the State of Wisconsin, numerous other potentially responsible parties (PRPs) are contributing funds with the understanding that all future work at the site will be done by the State. The total cleanup cost, including past and estimated future costs, is about 6.5 million dollars. The CD also includes provisions for a special account to receive PRP payments and for an orphan share compensation for the former (now defunct) landfill owner/operator.

Contacts: John Fagiolo (312-886-0800)
Jacqueline Kline (312-886-7167)

Preliminary Site Work, Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio

During the week of June 11, 2001, Ross del Rosario observed preliminary site work activities performed by potentially responsible parties at the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund Site in Uniontown, Ohio. The work was being conducted in accordance with a work plan prepared by the responsible parties and approved by U.S. EPA. Site activities included removal of underground storage tanks, building demolition,

residential well and septic tank abandonment, and asbestos abatement in one of the buildings. Representatives from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, local government officials, State/local inspectors, and the media were also present. The preliminary site work is expected to be completed before the end of July 2000.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

File Viewing, Sauget Area 1 Site, Sauget, Illinois

On May 2, 2001, Fred Gage was contacted by Trial Attorney Karen Torrent with the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Torrent requested Mr. Gage to arrange in-house file reviews on the Sauget Area 1 Site files for approximately 10 attorneys involved in a civil law suit. Ten cd-roms were recorded from the Record Center's Superfund Document Management System (SDMS) to ease viewing. Viewings took place on May 16 and 21, 2001, and June 4, 25, and 26, 2001. Each attorney's document selection and number of copies requested were successfully coordinated with 4 copy services.

Contact: Fred Gage (312- 353-3167)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Facility Response Plan 5 Year Reviews, Chicago, Illinois

Facility Response Plan (FRP) 5 year reviews have been completed for 194 FRP sites that were approved in 1995. In December 2000, each facility received a 32-page checklist that depicted each facility's deficiencies that were found during the review. Each facility was given 60 days to either resubmit a new plan with corrections or submit the section(s) that were found deficient. On July 2, 2001, 100 five year review approval letters were mailed, 64 five year review deficiency letters were mailed, and the remaining 49 of the 194 are possible enforcement cases that U.S. EPA is currently pursuing. U.S. EPA is currently reviewing 177 FRPs: 121 of the FRPs are under 5 year review, and 56 of them are under first review since they were never completed.

Contact: Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Environmental Emergencies Team Meetings, Fort Frances and Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

On June 19 and 21, 2001, Environment Canada held Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET) meetings in Fort Frances and Thunder Bay, Ontario. The meetings were attended by local police and fire departments, Ontario governmental agencies, First Nations (Native Canadians), the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and U.S. EPA. The meetings stressed the need for everyone to work together when responding to emergencies given the large geographical area and limited population of Northwest Ontario. Inland and Marine exercises were conducted at each REET meeting. In addition, at the Thunder Bay meeting, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Duluth, gave a presentation on the U.S./Canada Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (CANUSLAK 2001) training exercise conducted at Isle Royale National Park in June 2001.

Contact: Fred Micke (312-886-5123)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Congressional Compliment, Continental Steel Corporation Superfund Site, Kokomo, Indiana

On June 28, 2001, Lisa Lund wrote the following in relation to the Continental Steel Corporation Superfund site in Kokomo, Indiana: "Ed Krenik, Director Congressional Relations, wanted to pass on to you a compliment that Region 5 got in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials hearing today. Linda Fisher, Deputy Administrator, testified on Brownfields legislation. During the hearing, Congressman Buyer (R-5th) of Indiana thanked EPA for all its hard work on a landfill in his district."

Contact: Matthew Mankowski (312-886-1842)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
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